THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

on

MATTERS PERTAINING TO RACING

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF RACING

SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK

Sunday, August 14, 1988

The Jockey Club
380 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10017
OFFICERS OF THE JOCKEY CLUB

Ogden Mills Phipps, Chairman

THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE
ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO RACING
HELD BY
The Jockey Club

The National Museum of Racing
Saratoga Springs, New York
10:00 a.m.
August 14, 1988

Welcome to Participants and Guests .......... Ogden Mills Phipps
Chairman, The Jockey Club

Activities of The Jockey Club in 1988 ........... William S. Farish
Vice-Chairman, The Jockey Club

Drug Testing and Quality Assurance ................ Harris L. Hartz
Commissioner, New Mexico Racing Commission

— Panel Discussion —

UNIFORMITY IN DRUG TESTING AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

Richard L.G. Jones, Esq.
Steward, The Jockey Club Medication Committee;
Moderator

A. Gary Lavin, V.M.D.
American Association of Equine Practitioners

Richard A. Sams, Ph.D.
Director, Ohio State Racing Commission Laboratory

Russ Harris
Racing Columnist, The Philadelphia Inquirer

Marquess of Hartington
Member, The Jockey Club of England

OPEN DISCUSSION IS ENCOURAGED DURING THE PANEL

— INTERMISSION —

Update on the Progress of Thoroughbred . . Hugh A. Fitzsimmons, Jr.
Racing in Texas Commissioner, Texas Racing Commission

A Unified Approach to Racing’s ............... R. Richards Rolapp
Regulatory Functions President, American Horse Council

Program Chairman, John Hettinger
THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE
ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO RACING
HELD BY THE JOCKEY CLUB
AT
THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF RACING
SARATOGA SPRINGS
NEW YORK
SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 1988

IN ATTENDANCE:

Helen C. Alexander
Member, The Jockey Club; Owner/Breeder

Thomas L. Aronson
Director, American Horse Council

Dr. Ekie Ashby
Member, The Jockey Club

Dr. Taylor Ashby
Owner/Breeder

Col. Charles Baker
Chairman, Ontario Jockey Club; Member, The Jockey Club

Thomas M. Bancroft
Chairman, New York Racing Association; Owner/Breeder; Member, The Jockey Club

James E. Bassett
President, Keeneland Association; Member, The Jockey Club

Howard L. Battle
Racing Secretary, Keeneland Association

W.R. Rogers Beasley
Director of Sales, Keeneland Association

John A. Bell
Steward, The Jockey Club; Owner/Breeder

Remi Bellocq
Race Track Industry Program, University of Arizona

August Belmont IV
Member, The Jockey Club; Owner/Breeder

Paul W. Berube
Vice President, Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau

Edward Bishop
Registrar, The Jockey Club

Ellen R. Bongard
Member, Eastern New York Thoroughbred Breeders Association

Edward Sanders
Attorney, Member, The Jockey Club

Frank Bonsal
Member, The Jockey Club

Peter Bourne
The Jockeys' Guild

Ed Bowen
Editor-in-Chief, The Blood-Horse

James C. Brady, Jr.
Secretary/Treasurer, The Jockey Club

Mrs. James C. Brady, Jr.
Owner/Breeder

Harry L. Buch
President, Association of Racing Commissioners International

Jim Buch
Racing Steward, New York Racing Association

Timothy Capps
Vice President, Matchmaker

R. Anthony Chamblin
Executive Vice President, Association of Racing Commissioners International

Helen B. Chصحney
Member, The Jockey Club; Owner/Breeder

George M. Cheston
Member, The Jockey Club; Owner/Breeder

Melville Church III
Owner/Breeder

Steve Cipot
New York State Racing and Wagering Board

John S. Clark
Counsel, New York State Racing and Wagering Board

Robert N. Clay
Owner/Breeder

Jack A. Cole
Commissioner, New Mexico Racing Commission

Charles T. Coogan
Executive Vice President, National Steeplechase & Hunt Association

Nancy Colletti
The Jockey Club

Brownell Combs
Owner/Breeder

Mrs. Brownell Combs
Owner/Breeder

Leslie Combs
Vice President, Keeneland Association; Member, The Jockey Club

W. R. Corbrelli
Executive Director, New York Thoroughbred Breeders

Richard Corbissiero, Jr.
Chairman, New York State Racing and Wagering Board

Steven Crist
Writer, New York Times
Edward H. Gerry  
Member, The Jockey Club; Owner/Breeder

Martha F. Gerry  
Member, The Jockey Club; Owner/Breeder

Dr. Manuel A. Gilman  
Racing Steward, The Jockey Club

M. Tyson Gilpin  
Member, The Jockey Club; Owner/Breeder

Joseph A. Gimma  
Attorney; Commissioner, New York State Racing Commission

Howard Giordano  
President, New York City Off-Track Betting Corporation

John Giovanni  
National Managing Director, The Jockeys' Guild

Gene Glase  
Director, Kentucky State Racing Commission

Stuart O. Goldsmith  
President-Elect, Association of Racing Commissioners International

John K. Goodman  
Member, The Jockey Club

James P. Gowen  
The Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau

Gordon Grayson  
Member, The Jockey Club; Owner/Breeder

Mrs. Gordon Grayson  
Owner/Breeder

William C. Greeley  
General Manager, Keeneland Association

Fred Grossman  
Editor, Daily Racing Form

Virginia Guest  
Owner/Breeder

Leonard Hale  
Senior Vice President, New York Racing Association

Arthur Hancock  
Member, The Jockey Club; Owner/Breeder

F. William Harder  
Trustee, National Museum of Racing; Owner/Breeder

Mrs. William Harder  
Owner/Breeder

John C. Harris  
Member, The Jockey Club; Vice President, California Thoroughbred Breeders Association; Owner/Breeder

Russ Harris  
Panelist; Writer, Philadelphia Inquirer

Margaree Hawkins  
Panelist; Writer, Philadelphia Inquirer

Harris L. Hartz  
Speaker, Commissioner, New Mexico Racing Commission

Mr. Harris Hartz  
Director, Information Services, The Jockey Club

James P. Heffernan  
Attorney

John Hettinger  
Steward, The Jockey Club; Owner/Breeder

Mrs. John Hettinger  
Owner/Breeder

William Hettinger  
Owner/Breeder

Dr. James Hill  
Owner/Breeder

Mrs. James Hill  
Owner/Breeder

Joe Hirsch  
Writer, Daily Racing Form

Chyde Hitt  
Writer, Sports Eye

Fred W. Hooper  
Member, The Jockey Club; Owner/Breeder

G. Watts Humphrey, Jr.  
Steward, The Jockey Club; Owner/Breeder

Mrs. G. Watts Humphrey, Jr.  
Owner/Breeder

Eugene Jacobs  
Trainer

John W. Jacobs  
Owner/Breeder

Walter M. Jeffords  
Vice President, National Museum of Racing

Marshall W. Jenney  
Owner/Breeder

Richard I.G. Jones  
Steward, The Jockey Club; Owner/Breeder; Panel Moderator

Mrs. Richard Jones  
Owner/Breeder

Russell B. Jones  
Commissioner, Pennsylvania Racing Commission

Mrs. Russell B. Jones  
Owner/Breeder

John Joyce  
Racing Steward, New York State Racing and Wagering Board

Sam Karchger  
Director, News Service Bureau, The Jockey Club

Howard B. Keck  
Steward, The Jockey Club; Owner/Breeder

John Keit  
America's Best Racing, The Jockey Club

Frank E. Kilroe  
Senior Vice President, Santa Anita; Member, The Jockey Club

Donald C. Krause  
Secretary-Treasurer, Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau

Arthur J. Kreisel  
Commissioner, Vermont Racing Commission

Hon. Lawrence J. LaBelle  
Judge, Saratoga Springs
MR. PHIPPS: Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Thirty-Sixth Annual Round Table Conference on Matters Pertaining to Racing; first of all I want to thank Whitney Tower, his staff and the Trustees of the National Museum of Racing for their work and dedication and really wonderful thoughts that they put into this facility. We are very proud to be here as your guest this morning. Will, Will Farish will give you an update on some of our Jockey Club activities since the last conference. Will.

MR. FARISH: Good morning. In highlighting The Jockey Club activities in 1987, certainly at the top of the list from an internal standpoint and long-range from an external standpoint, was the relocation of the Registration Department from New York to Lexington accomplished on July 5. Our Customer Service department was the first to achieve immediate benefits. With state-of-the-art phone equipment, calls are being answered more rapidly by people basically more knowledgeable and interested in our sport. The convenience of our new toll-free number and extended service hours make it easier to communicate with The Jockey Club personnel. We believe over the long-term the move to Lexington will increase our opportunities to contain operating costs and improve processing efficiencies.

We have achieved a number of goals this year by joining forces with other major organizations in our industry. The ownership registry is a prime example of this. With the help of New York State Racing and Wagering Board, New York horsemen, and the race tracks, we have completed the implemention of the registry in this state. We have now started implementation in West Virginia and Oklahoma and we are currently discussing the project with several other states including New Jersey, Kentucky, Florida, Maryland and California. We are trying to move ahead as quickly as possible to complete nationwide implementation to assure that horsemen receive the full benefits from the registry. As soon as the registry is operational on a national basis, horsemen will be able to move their horses track to track, and from state to state without having to disclose ownership each time they arrive in a new location.

We have made significant progress working with the Association of Racing Commissioners and the TRA to start an educational program for racing stewards at the University of Louisville. We project that the curriculum will be ready this fall and hope to be able to offer a full course very shortly thereafter. Thoroughbred Racing Communications, a partnership of The Jockey Club, The Breeders Cup, TRA and the HPBA, under the leadership of Tom Merritt, is successfully promoting our industry throughout all forms of the media and is living up to our expectations far better than we expected.

We are very pleased to announce that the Jockey Club Research Foundation and the Gradyson Foundation have reached an agreement to merge, subject to final approval of both boards. Both organizations are convinced that this will allow more effective use of research funds in the future. The Medication Committee, recommended at last year's Round Table and made up of all major racing organizations, was created to clarify the medication issue. To begin this work the Jockey Club is currently funding a study performed by the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia Park to assess every aspect of laxis. In conclusion, The Jockey Club remains committed to improving not just our basic services, but all other areas of the sport that need our help. Thank you.
MR. PHIPPS: Thank you, Will. As you can see from the program, drug testing and quality assurance are very important in today's conference. The Jockey Club called this conference last year, for leadership to come together. They are working now. Our next speaker is Harris Hartz. He is co-chairman of the Association of Racing Commissioners International Drug Testing and Quality Assurance Program. As Chairman of the New Mexico Commission, Mr. Hartz came to national attention earlier this year for his role in initiating steps in New Mexico's drug testing program which led to uncovering widespread use of illegal substances. A former federal prosecutor, I am pleased to introduce Harris Hartz and welcome him to the conference, Harris.

MR. HARTZ: It's a great privilege to speak before such a distinguished gathering. You're not supposed to speak unless you know more than everyone else in the room. I'm afraid we have the reverse of that situation. I'm confident that I know less about horse racing than virtually everyone here in the room, including my wife. I'm also a bit surprised to be asked to speak, because in New Mexico speeches by politicians . . . I ran for office once so I'm considered a politician . . . but, speeches by politicians are avoided at all costs. That's a long tradition in New Mexico.

You may have heard about a public hanging that took place in New Mexico during territorial days. Before putting on the noose, the sheriff told the condemned man he had the opportunity to address the crowd for three minutes. He said "No, no thank you." The sheriff said "Well don't you want to protest your innocence?"

He said "No, that's not my style." "Well everybody takes advantage of this opportunity. Isn't there something you want to get off your chest?"

He said "No. It's just not my style." Well the mayor was standing in the front row and he couldn't believe what he was hearing. So he started waving to attract the attention of the sheriff which he finally did, and the sheriff said "What can I do for you Mr. Mayor?"

He said "Would the gentleman please yield his three minutes so I could address the crowd?"

Well, the condemned man heard that and said "Be pleased to oblige Mr. Mayor. But on one condition. They hang me first."

Despite all the reasons for my not being the speaker today I gather you have all heard about the Berlitz crash course we've had on horse urine in New Mexico in the last fifteen months. And my role is to try to share with you some of the highlights of that educational experience. The racing industry can eliminate unlawful drugging of race animals. But not without a concentrated and concerted effort. New attitudes, new procedures and money. The experience of New Mexico can teach a great deal about why the effort is worthwhile and where that effort should be directed. Perhaps the scandal in New Mexico will be brushed off as an isolated incident in a backward state. But I am convinced that what happened to us could happen, and may in fact be happening, in any jurisdiction in the United States.

Let me begin by describing the scope of the problem in New Mexico. The best statistics come from a thirty-three day period from last August and September, 1987 when New Mexico conducted an extensive testing program after years of inadequate effort. The figures I'm giving are based on reports by our official state racing chemists. Because of delays in court, only about a third of the cases have come before the commission for a full hearing. The biggest headline from that period concerned the All-American Futurity run at Ruidoso Downs Labor Day, 1987. The All-American is the richest quarter horse race in the country with a purse of $2 million. You've probably read that the winner of that race tested positive for oxydorphine, a narcotic that is reported to be much more potent than morphine. What you may not recall is that three other horses in the race also tested positive for oxydorphine, either in the race itself, or in one of the qualifying trials that qualified the horse for the All-American. A fifth horse in the race tested positive for prednisolone. That's a steroid. We don't consider it a hard drug like the narcotics. It has some legitimate uses in racing and it's not supposed to stimulate or depress a horse, but it's still unlawful. So according to our laboratory, the leader that's the pride of New Mexico racing, at least five of the nine starters were running unlawfully.

Our problems during that period were not confined to the big races. Sixty-five horses tested positive during that period for one of three narcotics: buprenorphine, oxydorphine or lubane. Or for mazindol—that's a relative of amphetamine. Those sixty-five positive tests come from a total of 600 samples. In short, about 11 percent of the urine tested, tested positive for a hard drug.

Fewer than half of the samples were tested for mazindol. For example, there was no mazindol testing in the All-American race. We didn't have that test available at that time. If we assume the frequency of mazindol use
was the same in those horses not tested, as it was in those horses that were tested, then the percentage of hard drug positives was 14 percent, about one in seven horses tested.

How did we uncover this problem? It was not a calculated effort on our part. It began because of our interest in bute. While re-examining our bute medication rule, we learned that some prominent racing chemists believe that high levels of bute in urine mask the presence of other more dangerous drugs. One of our commissioners, Jack Cole, decided to test that proposition. So he arranged for the administration of some unlawful drugs to several horses. Some of the horses were also given bute, the others were not. Urine samples from the horses were then sent, along with the samples from regular racing, to our laboratories so they did not know that they were being tested.

Our purpose was not to check the competence of the laboratories. We had confidence in them. One had been the laboratory for our racing commission for most of the prior twenty years. The head of the laboratory had been president of the Association of Racing Chemists. The other laboratory was supervised by a PhD in chemistry with racing chemistry experience who had impressed us with her intelligence, her desire, and her scientific approach. Our purpose was to see if the lab would detect the prohibited drugs only in the horses that were free of bute. You can imagine our dismay when the weekly reports from the two laboratories reported no positives. They both had missed every drug administered to the horses, regardless of whether or not they had also received bute.

The results obviously created serious concern about the competence of our laboratories. But we were also concerned that perhaps detection of these drugs, administered at these levels, were simply beyond the capacity of routine racing chemistry analysis at that time. Our staff again began calling racing chemists around the country to seek advice. We were told that the drugs that we administered should have been detected. In fact, we sent the samples to Dr. Sam who had been very helpful to us. And he found the drugs in the samples. But we learned that many drugs could escape detection. Perhaps most importantly, we got some help from the Illinois racing laboratory on what to do about drugs we could not detect.

The director of the laboratory, John McDonald, made two important contributions. First, he recommended that we preserve and store urine samples, even when they have cleared our testing procedures, so that they can be retested at a later date. Then if a new testing technique is developed, we can use it on storage samples to detect drugs that escape the original tests. Second, he informed us that a new technology, an Elisa test, had recently been developed to detect previously undetectable narcotics. He offered to assist New Mexico in using that technology to test our samples.

Suffice it to say that of the sixty-five hard drug positives that I mentioned, sixty-three—that's all but the two nubane positives—were detected only after retesting using the Elisa test. The sixty-three samples had all previously been tested and cleared by a competent laboratory using standard techniques. Also of interest, we've had only one positive for those hard drugs after word leaked out that we were using a new testing technology.

The best way to catch unscrupulous horsemen is to surprise them with technology that they don't know you're using. We cannot catch cheaters if we announce what drugs we'll test for. At least we can't catch those with a modicum of intelligence. I can't speak for other jurisdictions, but in New Mexico that is reported to be a clear majority. The detection of an unlawful drug by our laboratory however does not end the effort. One can expect horsemen whose livelihoods are at stake to make every effort to defeat the commission enforcement action. And some of those who lose will try to evade or circumvent the penalties. This is particularly true when the penalties are stiff.

In New Mexico we've announced that anyone who is found to participate in administering a drug to a horse to stimulate or depress it in a race, will be barred for life from racing if the offense is committed after January 1, 1988. We can expect license holders facing such disciplinary action to mount vigorous legal challenges to commission proceedings.

Experts will question the validity of test results. The handling of the evidence. The chain of custody will be attacked. Trainers and others will deny involvement in the drugging and present alibis or other defenses. So you can imagine the legal and investigative effort necessary to prepare sixty-five cases for hearing.

But the job does not even end at the hearing. Perhaps the most difficult task of all is to detect circumvention of penalties imposed on trainers and others who violate drugging laws. You may have heard the term "program trainers." In the southwest that refers to a trainer whose name appears on the program but who is really a front for a trainer who has been suspended, and who is presented deciding in what races to enter the horse, is training the horse at off-track facility, and is taking the money for training the horse. This practice has to be detected and punished if suspensions are to have the desired effect in deterrent and punitive terms. The lessons from the New Mexico experience are straightforward. Eliminating unlawful drugging of race horses requires that all elements of the racing industry pool their resources: financial, intellectual and intestinal. No effort will succeed unless it receives the expertise, insights and commitments of every group from track management to owners, trainers, veterinarians and jockeys. And the effort willulti-
cantly fail if it does not encompass every geographical corner of our industry.

One argument we hear all too often in New Mexico is that if we're too tough we're going to drive horsemen into other states. It's easy to respond "good riddance". But such an attitude can cost needed support from those who operate struggling racetracks and those businessmen in resort communities that depend on racing. A far better response would be that every other jurisdiction is going to be just as tough. For these reasons the Quality Assurance Committee of the Association of Racing Commissioners International (RCI) offers a great opportunity. Composed of representatives of sixteen industry groups involving harness, thoroughbred, quarter horse and greyhound (and it includes The Jockey Club), five racing commissioners representing the RCI and three at-large members, this committee is an excellent vehicle for the industry to pool its resources. Many members of the committee see here today in the audience. As I discuss some of the specific lessons for New Mexico, the value of the committee will become more and more apparent.

The first specific lesson is that the racing industry must go high-tech. Not only must we use every available technology to detect unlawful administration of drugs, but we must also encourage and fund research until we can detect, at physiological levels, every drug that can affect the performance of a race horse. So far, unscrupulous horsemen have been able to switch the drugs they use when they learn that an old favorite can be detected. We have to end that option. A key element of the program of the Quality Assurance Committee is to encourage, fund and coordinate such research. No individual state or industry group should carry this burden alone, and there will be unnecessary duplication and inefficiency if everyone tries to do it himself.

Second, we must ensure that racing laboratories are competent in the application of current technology. The Quality Assurance Program has served a useful function in providing participating laboratories with the expert assistance of quality assurance laboratories—Ohio State, and until recently Cornell—which have distributed to participating laboratories samples of urine and blood from injected horses and described the techniques necessary to detect those drugs. But the New Mexico experience proves that it is also essential to blind test racing laboratories if we're to determine how they function in real life during their routine procedures. Laboratory quality control procedures and the performance of lower level laboratory employees can be just as important as the expertise of the head of a laboratory. Racing commissions cannot rely solely on the reputation of the head of the lab, particularly when there is so much factionalism today in the world of racing chemistry. The Quality Assurance Committee expects to have a blind testing program starting next month. Each racing commission will then have an independent objective measure of the skill of the laboratory it uses. The other valuable functions that have been performed in the past by our quality assurance laboratories will be continuing.

Third, racing commissions throughout the country need advice on what are the best procedures to deal with the drugging problem. For example, until we have techniques that can detect every unlawful drug during routine screening, each racing commission should freeze and preserve urine samples for later retesting. That's the only way to deter unscrupulous horsemen who know that an illegal drug cannot be detected with today's technology. Yet it was really only by chance that New Mexico learned this simple proposition. There may be similar useful techniques to deal with the "program trainer" situation but I have yet to hear those. The Quality Assurance Committee is committed to developing and evaluating effective, efficient procedures to deal with unlawful drugging and disseminating advice to all racing jurisdictions so that each racing commission does not have to reinvent the wheel, or what's more likely, continue to travel by foot. By drawing on the expertise of all elements of the industry the committee can find solutions that will work and be acceptable to all honest people in the industry.

Fourth, we must unite to provide the equivalent of a Red Cross base camp for the industry to deal with major drug problems when they surface. Any jurisdiction that encounters a problem of the scope of New Mexico's would benefit from, and in fact may find essential to, additional legal assistance, investigative skills, and independent scientific expertise. It's in everyone's interest to assist other racing commissions so that they do not shy away from uncovering a major scandal that could stretch their resources. New Mexico's limited resources could be a major factor in our settling cases on terms that might otherwise be unacceptable. I suspect that some other jurisdictions, because of their concern about uncovering a major scandal, is the reason why they have yet to begin storing frozen specimens of the horse urine or have yet to subject old storage specimens to the most recent technology such as the Elisa test. The Quality Assurance Committee hopes to provide each participating jurisdiction with the backup needed for effective enforcement.

Finally, I would like to say a word about money. In the past the Quality Assurance Committee has been funded by annual fees paid by racing commissions and the laboratories participating in the program. To finance the expanded effort that the committee is undertaking we're recommending a fee of one tenth of one percent of each purse. That's one dollar out of every thousand dollars in purse money. This compares to the more than $25 million that is now spent annually on testing by racing commissions and the tracks. The $1 million surcharge—less than 4%—seems a small price to pay to insure that the $25 million is spent properly to insure integrity. I hope my remarks have helped convince you of the virtue, even the necessity, of making that investment in quality assurance for the racing industry. If you're not convinced I'd welcome you with open arms to New Mexico where I think the evidence is as clear as our blue sky. Thank you.

MR. PHIPPS: Thank you, Harris. This morning we are going to have a panel discussion. The moderator on the panel will be Richie Jones. Richie is Chairman of The Jockey Club's Committee on Medication which I discussed last year. I personally want to thank him, not only for the hours and the days, but the weeks of work that he has put in on this job over the last year. Richie, will you introduce the panel?

MR. JONES: I will introduce the panel but not before saying a few words myself on what we're doing. But thank you Dinny for those kind words. Without your dedication and able leadership, we would not have gotten this project off the ground. You will remember, those of you who were here last year, at the conclusion of the Round Table, Dinny had flashed onto the screen a number of newspaper clippings that were focusing on the use of medication in race horses, much to the detriment of the favorable publicity that the sport should have been getting at that time.

Following that time, in his remarks he asked that an industry group gather together to form a so-called blue ribbon panel that would address the problems that the articles were pointed towards. Thereafter, we formed a committee that is known as the Jockey Club Panel on Medication or Jockey Club Committee on Medication and we asked various thoroughbred related groups to give us a designated hitter and those groups are: The TRA, ARCI which was formerly the National Association of State Racing Commissioners, TOBA, the American Horse Council, the American Association of Racing Chemists; . . . that's the trade group of the laboratories . . . the HBPA, a designated person from the Breeders Cup, the Jockeys Guild and the American Association of Equine Practitioners, which is the veterinarians who operate each day on the racetrack and are faced on a daily basis with these medication issues. The panel was convened in the winter and has met on several occasions since that time and has been going on different issues than Harris Harris' panel, which is dealing with laboratories, testing, and quality assurance.

We have been dealing with two specific medications that Dinny mentioned by name in his speech last year and they are butazolidin and lasix. It appears that the scientific data necessary to form conclusions on butazolidin is in hand and we are now working toward a consensus, insofar as that medication is concerned. Lasix presents a much broader problem. It was determined by the veterinarian members of our panel that the data was not sufficient work done on that although there had been extensive work, and we therefore had presentations from both Kansas State University and the University of
Pennsylvania, and we have gone with a study at Philadelphia Park where I cannot not mention that we have had exemplary cooperation from the Pennsylvania Division of the HBPA in getting this project going and getting it supported.

The Philadelphia Park racetrack has been terrific in their cooperation, and particularly the Pennsylvania Racing Commission which has enabled the rule changes necessary to have this program conducted in actual horse races. The tests themselves will be done by giving non-bleeders lasix. Earlier studies have already been performed on bleeders, but this is on non-bleeders. It will involve a hundred horses. It will be given three races. The public will be fully informed as to what is going on so there is no detriment to the bettors and it will be then collated and statistically analyzed to determine and answer the single question of whether or not lasix enhances the performance of the racehorse in his natural state. We do not know what that conclusion is going to be, nor do we know what the reaction and results of that conclusion, whatever it is, will be. We can only speculate at this time as to what it will be but we are hopeful it will lead to a uniform rule that will be adopted in every racing jurisdiction in this country and in Canada. I can't mention the work that is being done by others, particularly the Committee of ARCI that Harris Hartz has referred to.

When I first got this assignment from Dinny I wrote to Keene Daingerfield whom all of you probably know. The senior racing official in Kentucky. He responded that he was glad to be a part of the effort but that he remembered being a part of an identical panel in 1953 and in 1958, and it was so much deja-vu that he wondered whether or not there was any likelihood of success. We wondered that too. But there is a consensus that there has to be a solution to the problem. The industry groups are all striving I think, in unity at this point, to have solutions to the butazolidin and lasix questions. The other testing and reference laboratory work is also going forward with great consensus in the meetings.

I'd like to just mention a few people whose work has been very helpful in this area. The present president of ARCI, which I said is the former National Association of State Racing Commissioners, Harry Bach, has taken the bull by the horns and has gotten his organization fully in gear and working on this. Harris Hartz you've heard from. Mike Steele from the HBPA has lent their mighty support to this effort. Jim Smith, who chairs the committee with Harris Hartz. Jim is a busy practitioner of veterinary medicine in Kentucky and a member of the state racing commission in Kentucky. My brother, Russell Jones, who is the newly elected president of TOBA and a Pennsylvania state racing commissioner. Ned Bonnie, as far as I can tell, serves on every committee that there is, on any subject in racing, and who has worked tirelessly in the trenches. He has shuttled between so many meetings here in the last three days that it has been very difficult to keep track of him.

Lastly, before turning to the panel I'd just like to say a word about the press and its relation, both now and in the past, to the work of this committee. I think you are mostly seated in the fourth row. But let me say that it was your articles that were flashed on the screen and that have really put this thing into play, as far as getting it started. We are most appreciative of what. However, while there is no greater asset in a free society than a free and responsible press, I am very anxious to urge upon you that you not pre-empt or jump the gun on what we're doing and leap to conclusions that are based in part on anecdotes, hearsay and half-truths. We are all working hard on this study at the University of Pennsylvania. It is on-going, the first horse has completed the test. There are two veterinarians at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Soma and Dr. Sweeney, who would love to discuss this with you. You can reach them by calling (215) 444-3800 and they will tell you why they feel that this is the one missing link in the lasix question. And rather than going on bettors' anecdotes, I would ask that you contact them.

I thought yesterday's article in The New York Times that many of you may have seen in the sports section which had prejudged the conclusions of this meeting to be held today. I think was the best case of gun-jumping that I have seen. And I would ask that the other of you not follow that lead.

Now having said all of that, I'm supposed to be the moderator of this panel and not the speaker. And let me turn to the panel that John Hettinger has so ably assembled here today. I think you'll see as these various people speak, and I'll introduce them one at a time, that while I'm giving you a rosy scenario on what we can accomplish, that there is a great deal of difficulty ahead because there are tremendous divergent views. The purpose of this panel is not to present you with uniformity or with a united front but to point out that there are great differences, great hurdles yet to climb as far as this is concerned.

Our first panelist is Dr. Gary Lavin. Let me tell you just a little bit about him. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, no connection with the lasix study. He is on the Executive Board of the American Association of Equine Practitioners where he chairs their racing committee. He is on our panel, The Jockey Club Medication Committee, as their designated hitter. He practices every day at Churchill Downs as a racetrack veterinarian. And as most of you know there is no more lenient, more permissive state than Kentucky. And he, together with his wife, operates Longfield Farm in Goshen, Kentucky in a thoroughbred breeding operation. Dr. Lavin.

(left to right) Round Table Participants—Hugh A. Fitzsimons, Jr., R. Richards Rolapp, Harris L. Hartz, Marquess of Hartington, Russ Harris, Richard A. Sams, A. Gary Lavin, Richard L.G. Jones.
Since their introduction into medicine, steroids and anti-bleeder medication have been used as therapeutic agents for training and racing purposes. The rules of the day were not violated. These medicines were not stimulants, depressants, narcotics or masking agents. They were used as an aid in maintaining racehorses soundness, and certainly played a part in maintaining the career of individual horses. One reason for this allowed use was that fact that being natural products of the body itself they were not detectable in the labs of that era. The development of the synthetic medicines in the 50's, easily detected in the lab, resulted in the thinking at that time that if a sample tested positive for any substance, it was a violation. No one in racing tried to ban these substances from training. There was not any foundation for that. These were useful, therapeutic medicines regularly employed in equine practice. Guidelines for withdrawal were established. The guidelines were obviously adhered to or you suffered the consequences.

Unfortunately, as far as legal medicines are concerned, the sophisticated equipment that was being developed and is now being constantly refined, caused the use of these meaningful medicines to become so restricted that the benefits are not now being realized or utilized.

The necessity of legal therapeutic medicines has been the only position taken by the AAEP since its founding in 1954. The AAEP condemns the use of any performance-enhancing drug. We wholeheartedly support any and all efforts to eliminate their use in our industry. It is an enormous task that we ask of our laboratories. Medical research and the pharmaceutical companies are working, not specifically with horse racing in mind, into areas that will continue to challenge the racing chemists. It is crucial to ascertain what the racing industry can live with and what it cannot live with.

Hay, oats, and water is a dream we never had in the past; hay, oats and water is a dream we can never achieve in the future. Testing laboratories, their equipment and the expertise of monitoring all drugs is not only impractical but technically and economically impossible. Let us proceed on a direct course to put in place a system that can detect a performance enhancing drug, but let us recognize the necessity for performing normalizing medicines that can maintain and prolong the productive period of a horse's career.

The Camelot of Saratoga is something that we in the industry can be unreservedly proud and rejoice in. This small oasis of racing idealism cannot be maintained on this level anywhere else; be it Aqueduct, Calder, Hawthorne, the Fair Grounds, Turfway Park, or for to borrow from the poet Robert Burns:

"The 'eavy 'eavy pounding,
On the 'ard 'ard ground"

will ultimately compel us to accept the judicious application, and acceptance, of modern therapeutics. Thank you.

MR. JONES: Our next speaker is Dr. Richard Sams, who is professor at Ohio State University where he holds a Ph.D. in pharmacology. He is on the Quality Assurance Committee of the ARCI and runs a research center lab there for that organization. He is also the Director of the Ohio Racing Commission Lab and he will give you his views, both from academia and from a working laboratory point of view. Dr. Sams.

DR. SAMS: Thank you very much. Good Morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. Previous speakers have referred to the adverse publicity surrounding drug positive calls. And during the past year or so we've heard a lot of this information, and perhaps misinformation. So what I have chosen to do for you this morning is to examine the positive calls that were reported to racing commissions in 1987. I've categorized them according to drug category, pharmacologic class. Let's look at the numbers and see if we can examine some of the significance of those calls.

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States, Cinnameterol is not approved for use in the United States at this time. Theophylline; six positives were reported there. So in sum, nine positives for broncho-dilators were reported in the United States.

The group of drugs known as the non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory agents; these are the drugs some of which Dr. Lavin just referred to. Four of these drugs are approved by racing commissions in certain jurisdictions in the United States. They are allowed medication. Others are banned all across the United States. Phenylbutazone or Bute had 367 positive calls in 1987. Some of these calls were based upon violations of a quantitive limit. Some were violations based upon the mere presence of the drug and some were based upon violations of the presence of the drug in two-year-olds. So there is a wide variety of rules that lead to these positive calls for phenylbutazone. There are nineteen calls for oxyphenylbutazone. This is a drug in its own right and it is a metabolite of phenylbutazone. It was reported in those racing jurisdictions which do not allow phenylbutazone or oxyphenylbutazone. And that's the reason it appears there. Fifteen calls for naproxen. This is approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for use in horses, and 55 calls for furinix or bama- mine, also approved by the US FDA for use in horses. All of these drugs have the same pharmacologic effect. There are over 400 positive reports out of 800 total positive reports for this group of drugs.

The cortico-steroids have much the same pharmacologic activity. They produce their effects somewhat differently. There were about thirty positive calls from this group; prednisolone, methylprednisolone, dexamethasone and betamethasone are the ones reported. There are other steroids which we know are being used at the race track. You don't see any positive calls for them. The reason is that they are much more difficult to find and confirm than these four are.

The group of drugs known as the anesthetics—diprynone with the largest number of positive calls—eight—is an old-time drug used to relieve the pain of colic primarily. The others, nephophan, thyacystic acid and zylazene are analgesic drugs in use in the United States. About thirteen positive calls from this group. Antihistamines are substances used to relieve the symptoms associated with allergic reactions. Polaramine, 24 positive calls, very widely used in equine practice. One call for tripeplamine. Anesthetics, these are the local anesthetics that produce numbness. The largest number of positive calls is by proxacine. Most of these probably resulted from the administration of proxacine pentilucin. In that particular formulation, proxacine does not act as a local anesthetic. It acts to prolong the action of penitilucin. Nephophan and buphacaine are systemically used local anesthetics. They have no place in racing. Benzocaine is a topical anesthetic agent. Some of you may have used this drug in topical sunburn preparations. It has no systemic effect. But it is found in some tack shops in preparations such as EFP-S and so on.

A number of compounds categorized as sympyothemetics. These are sometimes also referred to as stimulants. If they are stimulants, they are very weak stimulants; ethedrin, isoxyprene and phenylpropanolamine. Phenylpropanolamine is a drug in its own right and it is a metabolite of ethedrin. Ethedrin and paryloamine, one of the antihistamines, are very frequently combined in a preparation that is used in veterinary medicine. So some of these positives for ethedrin or phenylpropanolamine, plus paryloamine, were reported from the same sample. Diuretics or diuretic medication; 30 positive reports there for fosarnet or lasix. The other drugs listed were reported primarily from those racing jurisdictions that do not permit lasix. These are alternatives to lasix. They are more difficult to detect in the test sample. So these calls probably reflect efforts by trainers to circumvent the prohibition against lasix in those jurisdictions not allowing it. About 50 positive calls from within this group.

A large number of antibiotics were reported positive by racing commission laboratories. There are about twenty calls listed. A number of compounds referred to . . . they start with the root sulph. These are the group of compounds called sulphonamides; very useful antibiotics in use in horses. They are easily detected in the laboratory. It's my opinion that many laboratories judge their success by the number of positive calls they make. In many cases, these types of calls reflect an effort to increase the count. There are positive calls for drugs that are used to relieve the symptoms of coughing. Dextrorphan is the active ingredient in Robitussin. While phenecin is a very commonly used expectorant. Eleven calls from that group of drugs. Miscellaneous compounds received a lot of calls; dimethylylphosphide is a solvent widely used in the shed row. Hor- dinone is an alkaloid found in a particular grass that is widespread throughout temperate regions of North America. I suspect none of you in here can identify the plant that contains horridone which could appear in your horse's feed bucket. Laminosil is a worming agent, methyrcarbamol is a skeletal muscle relaxant. PEG is an abbreviation for polyethylene glycol. This is a compound which is used to dissolve other substances, some of which are prohibited substances, others of which are not. Chemists report this substance because it interferes with other test procedures. Theobromine is a food contaminant in many cases. And thiamine is a vitamin reported by chemists because they claim that it interferes with their test procedures.

The last two groups of drugs I think, are those that we need to focus our attention on. This first group, the stimulants; caffeine, six positive calls were made in North America last year. Mazindol is the agent similar to amphetamine that Mr. Hartz made reference to. Methenamine, methamphetamine and pemeline are other substances that are central nervous system stimulants prohibited in all racing jurisdictions. About twenty-three or twenty-four calls from within this group. The narcotic analgesics. These are the drugs that have been receiving so much attention the last several years. At the top of the list buprenorphine, this is the drug that goes by the trade name bupivacene; thirty-nine positive calls. Down the list somewhat, twenty-two positive calls for ephedrine. Twenty-one of these calls were on one trainer. Twenty-one calls on one trainer, on tests performed on stored samples. The problem that I have with this is that the test was in place in the laboratory for the entire time period over which those samples were collected. It's my opinion that the tests should have been applied on the first sample collected to get that person out of racing as opposed to waiting through twenty-one samples. Other positive calls; there are a large number of positive calls for methamphetamine, hydromorphone, oxymorphone and toward the end of the year there were a number of positive calls for the drug sufentanil.

This summarizes positive reports occurring in racing in 1987. I am very much encouraged by the progress that the Quality Assurance Program Committee has made to date; and I look forward to working with the
Committee and with its new administrator, Dr. Bob Gowan. Thank you very much.

MR. JONES: Our third speaker today, having hammered the press somewhat earlier, is Russ Harris who has been a correspondent for thirty-seven years, a racing correspondent for thirty-one years only interrupted by his tour of duty as a professor of American history at the University of Akron for several years in the interim. He presently is a correspondent for The New York Daily News, The Philadelphia Enquirer, and has previously served as a correspondent for a number of other newspapers. One other sidelight to Russ's career that he wanted to be made known is that he served as a steward at Washington Park, Arlington Park and Hawthorne racetracks. And if any of you from racetracks are looking for officials you should take note of the fact that all three of those racetracks burned down. This is Russ Harris!

MR. HARRIS: I hasten to add that all of those tracks burned down years after I left. Last month a California-based trainer shipped a 5-year-old mare named Magdelaine to Atlantic City race course to run in the Matchmaker Stakes. Magdelaine was on the approved list for racing on lax in California and the trainer assumed she could be treated with lax in the Matchmaker. Not until a few hours before the race did he discover that under New Jersey rules, Magdelaine could not be treated with lax.

New Jersey will permit lax in horses from all states to race on lax in New Jersey—except horses from California and Kentucky. New Jersey has fairly strict rules on whether a horse can run on lax and regards the rules of California and Kentucky as too liberal. I hope I didn't start a war.

The trainer, having come some 3,000 miles with his mare, decided to run in the Matchmaker _without_ lax. Magdelaine led all the way of course, returning $65.30 to win.

This episode raises questions.
(1) How high would Magdelaine's odds have been if the public had known she was a lax horse running without her medication?
(2) Does Magdelaine really need lax?
(3) What would public reaction have been if a 3-to-5 favorite, accustomed to racing on lax in California, had run without lax and finished off the board in the Matchmaker?
(4) Does anybody out there really know how to play this game?

I have heard baseball's problems with the designated hitter being compared with the problem of medication rules in racing, and of course there is no comparison whatsoever. The American League permits the DH, the

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Russ Harris

National League does not. But there are only two major leagues in baseball and they have one commissioner at the helm.

There are 33 states which have Thoroughbred racing. Each state has a state legislature and a state racing commission. And any outsider attempting to suggest changes in their racing rules would have the door slammed in his face.

One cannot look at the absence of uniform medication rules in racing without finding perhaps by taking a look at the very beginning of this nation.

During the period in the 1780's, 200 years ago, when the 13 American states were operating under the Articles of Confederation, each state was extremely jealous of its authority—just as the state legislatures and state racing commissions are today. In 1785, John Jay was sent to London to negotiate a commercial treaty with England. But his mission was a failure, symbolized perhaps by the question repeatedly asked of him, "Do you represent one nation or 13?"

The most famous political cartoon in America in this era was published by Benjamin Franklin in the Pennsylvania Gazette. It still is seen in history books in our time, depicting the separate colonies as parts of a disunited snake with the slogan underneath: JOIN OR DIE.

I think that racing with its problems in medication rules could benefit by looking back to the 1780's. But our situation in racing is not quite as desperate. The goal, however, of achieving uniformity in medication rules in 33 states is roughly akin to discovering a way to dispose of nuclear waste. Which state will volunteer to provide the nuclear waste dumps so the others will feel more secure? Which state will revise its medication rules to make them conform with the others?

When you have a problem of this magnitude, you must, of course, turn to the press of America. We in the press have all the answers, as you may be aware. With this in mind, I decided to contact the cream of American journalism and seek out wisdom from various parts of the country. I originally had some thirty names on my list, and I look around now and I see one or two that I missed. And I want to be assured that you were on the list but you weren't in when I called, or you may have been on vacation. But these twenty-seven are elite, and the names I mention will certainly illustrate what I'm saying. I also want to note that I'm quite aware that the only poll that really counts is the one they take in November on Tuesday, and that I don't regard this as any scientific poll. It's just an attempt to give you the views of some of the most brilliant newspapermen in America.

The first question put to the newspaperman was, "Do you believe the diverse medication rules in the various states are bad for the image of racing?"

There was widespread agreement, in fact, by a vote of 21 to 6, that the different rules on medication are harmful to racing's public image.

Steven Crist of The New York Times noted
that this is an especially bad year in this respect when four of the five top handicap horses are known as "fastest horses."

But there were some interesting comments from the minority.

Joe Hirsch of Daily Racing Form said, "I don't believe it's as big a problem with the public as it is with horsemen." And I think that's illustrated by the Matchmaker episode.

Art Grace of the Miami News, who is an advocate of uniform rules permitting medication, said part of the problem may be that anti-medication racing writers make too much of the problem.

The second question asked was "Would it be helpful to racing's image if all medications were banned (a) in Triple Crown races, (2) in Breeders' Cup races or (3) in all Grade I events?" I'm aware of the difficulty of starting a rule of this nature, and that the TOBA and the Breeders' Cup have both looked into it very deeply, and that it might be an impossible task or at least it is in the eyes of some people. However, this is the opinion of the twenty-seven writers and editors interviewed. Eighteen favored a ban on medication in Grade I races, noting, as did Jay Primavera of the Los Angeles Daily News, that this would be at least a starting point. Most frequent reason given for prohibiting medication in Grade I races was linked to breeding.

As Clem Florio of The Washington Post noted, "Their defects as well as their ability will be passed on. Only the best should reproduce." But the views of the minority again were interesting. "Barring medication only in Grade I races might be opening a can of worms; it might make things worse than they are." That was Jack Wilson of Daily Racing Form.

Edward Bowen of The Blood-Horse said of having a ban on medication in Grade I races, "It would be like the racing commission saying, 'We've a little bit ashamed of our rules, but we would like to look good on Saturdays.'"

On the question of establishing a uniform rule, either prohibiting or permitting medication in all races, eighteen favored a total ban while eight would like to see a uniform rule permitting medication.

The geographical breakdown is worth noting. In New York, only one of eight writers favored a medication rule while seven favored a total ban. In California, a medication state, three of five writers were for medication, but there were two for a total ban.

Andrew Beyer of The Washington Post, one of those who favored a ban on medication in Grade I races, said he did not believe that uniform medication rules were necessarily the answer. But he noted, and you have to agree with this, "There should be a uniform standard throughout the country on what qualifies a horse to race on Lasix."

Lastly, David L. Hockerman of The Thoroughbred Record was among those who would like to see a total ban on medication, but with the concept that it is possible to attain. And he said something that we all can agree with. "There is deep division among horsemen concerning medication, but it is an issue that will never completely go away."

Thank you very much.

MR. JONES: Our final speaker is the Marquess of Harington. He goes by the first name of John. He is the Senior Steward of the English Jockey Club and will assume that office next July. He is the owner of race horses in his country, and owns and operates the Sidle Hill Stud in Newmarket. Lord Harington, we appreciate greatly the effort that you and your family have made to be with us over the Round Table and we look forward to your remarks.

LORD HARTINGTON: Ladies and gentlemen. As a guest, and as a guest in your country as well, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you, Drury, for your generosity, hospitality, for your warmth of putting me at my ease and finally for your remarkable optimism in entrusting me with the task of outlining the UK position on medication.

I am naturally extremely conscious of the long line of eminent speakers you have invited to address this conference over the years. I'd say it is a considerable privilege to be here as a guest of the parent body of the American Turf.

There has, as you know, been a close association between both Jockey Clubs ever since Major August Belmont became one of our Honorary Members nearly 100 years ago, My presence here today is a tangible expression of that relationship and of the good will which exists between the two turf authorities. I am delighted to be with you.

Some eight years ago at this Conference, you invited Mr. Jay Hickory to talk about the Proposed Federal Medication Legislation, and also about the Corrupt Horseracing Practices Act which was expected shortly to come before Congress.

I congratulate you on having been able to disperse that "small dark cloud on the horizon" as it was then described, and I also applaud the initiative you have taken in discussing a uniform rule across the states on permitted medication. The fact we're all here today does you great credit.

As you are aware, other racing authorities, which fortunately for them are not confronted by the same inter-state problems you face, have already achieved a large measure of agreement on this subject and I would like to give you an idea of the action we in Europe are undertaking as a result.

The vast majority of other racing countries subscribe to the International Agreement on Breeding and Racing. After the special conference in Rome in 1977, Article 6 was introduced, clearly setting out a number of anti-doping rules.

The philosophy then was very simple—no horse at the time of racing could show in its tissues, body fluids or excreta the presence of a prohibited substance. This was defined as a substance originating externally and contained in an agreed list. There was no attempt to name every drug, but rather to categorize them according to the way they act. You will note that neither was there any attempt to distinguish between medication and doping.

The joy of this simple rule, from the administrative point of view, was that if a prohibited substance was found in however small a quantity, the horse had infringed the rule, would be disqualified and the trainer very severely punished. There was no room for a defense as to whether the quantity found had actually affected the performance of the horse or not.

So that was 1977 and that was fine. However, a few years ago, the beginning of the 1980's about four or five years ago, it became quite apparent that scientific advances were undermining this simple approach.

The problem was that this rule did not allow for the fact that minute quantities of prohibited substances could occur in normal feed and be detected on analysis by the increasingly sophisticated laboratory equipment. There are a number of prohibited substances in this category like salicylic acid and arsenic, but the one which caused particular difficulty in Great Britain was theobromine contamination in compound feed. In one year alone, 21 runners were disqualified because of minute traces of theobromine in the feed, e.g. approximately one part in a million. The need for a limited number of threshold levels was indicated if the firm implementation of the doping rule was not to be brought into disrepute.
Threshold levels were also required for those prohibited substances which could occur naturally in the horse, like anabolic steroids, although these could be encompassed within the existing simple rule. I must emphasise that the problem was focused only on contaminated feedstuffs and not on naturally occurring substances. There was no intention to produce threshold levels for therapeutic drugs or for medication.

The racing authorities of Great Britain, France and Ireland accepted that there was a problem to be solved and that the simplistic approach to doping adopted throughout most of the world now required more sophistication. Their chemical analysts, as well as those from Germany, Spain and Italy, were asked to carry out intensive research work to establish threshold levels which were beyond scientific reproach. They were given clear instructions on criterion to be adopted. The thresholds should be calculated by reference to the maximum concentration of the substances which might be found naturally. As regards contaminants, like theobromine, a tough threshold level was required to make manufacturers exercise effective quality control over their product. I would underline here the criterion of maximum natural occurrence, rather than any attempt to quantify how much of a substance might actually affect performance—we have always steered well clear of this issue in view of the possible legal pitfalls. By 1987 the analysts of these six countries had reached agreement on threshold levels for four substances on the criterion laid down.

Then came the task of drafting new rules to reflect the new situation. Agreement was reached in principle in June last year, and in October Great Britain took the lead by introducing a new rule which gave threshold levels for four naturally occurring substances—salicylic acid, arsenic, theobromine and 19-nortestosterone. At the time our Jockey Club made it abundantly clear that the move should not be seen as a more relaxed attitude to doping, nor as any encouragement for the introduction of permitted medication.

Although the other countries felt unable to follow Great Britain’s lead on threshold levels at that time, further discussions were held at an International Conference in Louisville earlier this year and it was agreed to incorporate into a new draft Article 6, an amendment to remove the anomalies caused by the advances of science. This document will go for ratification to the full international meeting of some 45 countries in Paris this October.

Our undoubted success in deterring serious doping clearly could not have been achieved without a highly effective testing procedure and the huge advances in knowledge and technique which our research scientists have made.

There are, of course, only so many resources available. Money is not unlimited, and even if it were, obtaining scientists of the right calibre in the face of intense competition is not easy. It is, therefore, a matter of balancing the resources we have, in order to produce both the best results from routine testing, and also to carry out important research into new threats.

If I may use my Horseracing Forensic Laboratory at Newmarket as an example, it employs 56 people, has a budget of roughly two and half million dollars, and the work is split two thirds on routine testing and one third on research.

It is all very well testing a large number of horses (and we test 6,300 every year, which is roughly 10% of all domestic runners, plus about another three and a half thousand under contract for overseas turf authorities) but it is all a waste of time, or worse, if the results can be challenged at an enquiry and proved inaccurate.

Until recently, very few laboratories anywhere in the world operated an effective quality assurance policy, which is why the considerable efforts you have made in this area are so welcome. In practical terms it means setting standards of analysis with which the laboratory must comply, and testing the performance of its scientists by double blind trials.

This involves introducing a test sample into the system which is indistinguishable from all the others and unknown both to the people doing the tests and those assessing the results. The Newmarket laboratory conducts these trials on a regularly irregular basis.

However, one must not only have confidence in one’s own laboratory, but also in other people’s work. In our case in Europe, with the top horses racing in England, France, Ireland, Italy and West Germany, we have also to be confident that their respective laboratories will come up with the same results.

Routine testing of this type is one of the most difficult jobs in analytical chemistry. Examining a sample for minute traces of drugs, which almost certainly are not there, is demanding psychologically and professionally.

However, this care and attention to detail has borne fruit. Trainers now know that the laboratory can accurately detect prohibited substances in tiny quantities and the penalties for infringing these rules are extremely severe.

In my opinion, this is the most important single issue in racing today. "Vital" is a much over-used word, but the dictionary defines it as "essential to life" and therefore I am convinced that the control of doping and medication is vital to racing.

We need international co-operation at every level—on policy, on effective implementation of the rules and on research. Only a few laboratories are involved in serious research at the moment. There is scope for a great deal more joint effort—if all subscribe, all can reap the benefit. The target is always moving—the pharmacists one step ahead of the analyst, and with the frontiers of science expanding all the time, we are presented with an immense and continuing challenge.

I have already applauded your efforts in trying to achieve a uniformity of rule. I know that you are in a position to confront this challenge effectively right across the United States. For Thoroughbred racing and breeding to be preserved and to flourish, horses must be allowed to run on their own merit.

The public is looking to us, the racing authorities, for action. Over the last two hundred years the sport’s governing bodies have acquired an enviable reputation for integrity and for energy in stamping out malpractice. Let us not fail them now. Let us, together, deal with this creeping blight of doping and
medication whilst there is still time.

Thank you.

MR. JONES: Thank you. Diny would you like this be an appropriate time for the interval?

MR. PHIPPS: I think so. We're going to take a ten minute break and there are two ways to really do this. You can have a drink in the back or Dr. Lavin will give everybody a shot of lax, and conduct calisthenics up here in the front. But I know everybody is chilly.

INTERMISSION

MR. PHIPPS: We all know the importance of expanding racing throughout the United States. The state of Texas is crucial in this and I am pleased to welcome Hugh Fitzsimons, Jr. Mr. Fitzsimons is a member of the Texas State Racing Commission, prominent southwest Texas rancher and a native of San Antonio.

Hugh.

MR. FITZSIMONS: Thank you very much. It's a great privilege to be here today to represent the Texas Racing Commission. The thirty-year effort to legalize pari-mutuel wagering in Texas culminated with the passage of Senate Bill 15 and the state-wide referendum last November. This effort, begun in the early 1960's during the first term of Gov. John Connally, is far from being accomplished. We still have a great deal of work to do before I could stand here and tell you that Texas has first class racing. The Texas racing commissioners are extremely aware that if we make the wrong decisions in the early stages of the commission's life, we may never become what great Texas horsemen like Bob Kleberg, Will Farish, Joe Strauss, B. F. Phillips, Mike Rutherford, Bob Strauss and many, many others have worked so hard to try and achieve. Four state-wide referendums were defeated over a period of twenty some years before we finally were able to pass a racing bill in the Senate in 1983. The bill lost in the House by one vote. In 1986, during a special session when Texas was losing $200 million in oil and gas revenues, a bill was finally passed by the legislature which approved pari-mutuel wagering for the first time in fifty years. By 56 to 44 percent vote, a referendum was passed making this bill law the following November. Pari-mutuel wagering had at last come back to Texas.

As you all are aware, Texas is a big state geographically as well as in population. The Texas Racing Act permits a maximum four Class-one tracks in counties that have a population of 750,000 or more. There are currently three areas that fall into this category, San Antonio, Houston and the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Under our law Class-one tracks will race for a minimum of forty-five days per meet and Class-two tracks have a limit of forty-four days a year of racing after 1983. Under our bill greyhound racing is also permitted in three counties along the Gulf Coast, these being near the cities of Galveston, Corpus Christi and Brownsville in the lower Rio Grande Valley. The first to lose oil have brought the addition of many states into the pari-mutuel fold. Oklahoma's new Remington Park is an excellent example of how bright the future can look in a new racing jurisdiction. But Texas is different. We have a population base of 18 million people to draw on. Texas has an existing horse industry that makes us the largest breeder of quarter horses and Thoroughbreds in the nation. And, finally, we believe that Texas has the leadership, the vision and the desire to become a premier racing state.

I cannot talk about Texas racing without talking about Texas and its unique characteristics that are found in our three major metropolitan areas. The three cities where the large racetracks are located are San Antonio, Houston and the Dallas-Fort Worth area. These are among the ten largest population centers in the nation. Visualize, if you will, the opportunity that is a bonus—for the first time in many, many decades quality horse racing will be introduced to these new areas whose combined population exceeds six million people. This could have an impact on the horse industry that would be felt nationwide. Let's talk for a moment about these three cities individually.

San Antonio is the ninth largest city in the nation. It has the fastest growing tourist trade in the country. Its three large military bases give us a sound economic stability that is lacking in other parts of the state. San Antonio is located just to the south of the most active horse breeding area in the state. An area that surrounds the city of San Antonio has a population of over a million and a half people and in the referendum passed in November, San Antonio and its surrounding counties voted 71.8% in favor of racing. San Antonio also has the best winter climate and late spring weather of any large population center in the central part of the country. Houston, although hit with tough economic times during the past few years, is showing great signs of vitality and of coming back. The tremendous community support and excitement for this new industry in Houston and the rest of the Gulf Coast area is overwhelming. The Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex will give Remington Park and the tracks in Arkansas and Louisiana stiff competition when they realize the potential of the educated and seasoned bettors in these cities and the surrounding communities who will no longer have to drive two hundred miles to go to the races. First class racing is coming to them, and their wagering dollars will be spent in Texas instead of Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

We think racing in Texas will be different for another reason. The Texas racing commissioners have made decisions on their track locations or ownerships and the awarding of the initial track licenses will be made solely on the criteria of what is best for racing in Texas. As one of the commissioners, you can believe me when I tell you that there are no done deals on Texas racing. The commission however must still resolve several problems. For example, the Texas Racing Act is far from perfect. This legislation was passed when Texas was beset by spiraling revenues and increasing demands on the tax dollar. We were in the middle of a severe decline in oil and gas revenues and faced with a third tax increase in as many years. Pari-mutuel wagering was seen as a cure for our revenue troubles. And as I am sure that all of you know, that is simply not the case.

The Racing Commission has just completed a series of public hearings around the State on our proposed rules and regulations. As a new commissioner in a racing jurisdiction, please indulge me this one observation and suggestion. As an industry, we need to re dedicate ourselves and the industry to national guidelines as well as uniform rules.
and regulations. It is difficult, if not impossible, for a new state to grapple with all the complex, volatile issues surrounding racing such as track safety, minimum specifications for the racetrack, drug use and testing, simulcast, etc. The list goes on and on. But looking ahead, we feel that the challenges before the Texas Racing Commission are great, but well worth confronting. The challenges head on and we intend to do it in this case. Let me assure you again that no decisions have been made, or will be made for that matter, on specific locations and ownership of future tracks until the commission has objectively reviewed each association application. This will be an open and fair process. And the decisions made by the Texas Racing Commission will be decisions made to ensure the integrity of first class racing in Texas and to ensure furthermore its success, not only as a billion dollar industry, but also as a sport that upholds the high standards and sporting traditions of the Thoroughbred.

In closing, I would like to thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to speak here today. I look forward to our advice and counsel as we adopt rules and regulations for racing in Texas. And I look forward to the day when Texan-bred horses are consistently winning at tracks all over the nation as we attempt to become the finest place for horse racing and horse breeding in the world. We are a bit late coming on the scene, but believe me, this time we are going to do it right. Thank you very much.

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**MR. PHIPPS:** Our last speaker today is R. Richards Rolapp. For the past ten years he has been President of the American Horse Council. His constituency really covers all the horse breeds. And he, on a day to day basis, observes their strengths and he observes their weaknesses. The Jockey Club has asked Rich to give you his thoughts on a uniformed approach to racing's regulatory functions. Rich.

**R. Richards Rolapp:** Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Like all of you I always enjoy coming to Saratoga. But it is a special time for me, because in August congress is usually not in session. Russ Harris made reference to the disposing of nuclear waste and it reminded me of the senior senator from the state of Nevada. Some of you may not know that the Federal government has proposed a rather significant nuclear repository in Nevada. The senior senator, Senator Hume, is running for re-election. And in a recent campaign speech in Reno, he assured his constituents by saying "As long as I'm your Senator, the Federal government will not be able to make Nevada a nuclear suppository."

"You can see that things are normal in Washington; at least as far as our elected representatives are concerned.

I would like to begin with a quotation, "If racing is to overcome threats to its future it will require the concerted action and honest cooperation of all segments of the industry. The basic question is whether such cooperation and effort are possible. There are two impediments which must first be overcome: fragmentation and self interest. These two elements are basic to human nature, and overcoming them will be difficult. However, each special interest may find itself increasingly forced to give up some of its autonomy for the common good." End of quote and I was quoting myself.

I offered those thoughts, along with a few others, to the *Daily Racing Form* almost ten years ago, when that publication compiled a booklet of predictions, expectations and fears under the title, "The Future of Racing in North America."

Normally, collections of that type may make for miserable reading a few years later when you realize how wrong you were or how little you and your fellow experts accomplished in the meantime. The best you can usually say is that you were in good company.

I was in good company; my feelings at that time were not unique. A number of other commentators articulated the same sense of concern over our failures to communicate on important policy matters and, of course, the achievements that might lie ahead if we could.

So it is not without some irony that The Jockey Club asked me to speak to you today about racing's regulatory problems and the fragmentation that perpetuates them. The issue is not new. And while it may be unfortunate that we still have to talk about it, it is fortunate we have survived to talk about it.

When we wrestle with racehorse medication, integrity, marketing and other subjects that consume our current agenda, we are, in a larger sense, struggling with the problem of making our industry function as a whole rather than as separate parts.

We all want uniform rules and national marketing programs. We all want a positive public image. We all want to resolve our collective troubles and concentrate on our collective strengths. The question remains:

"How do we get there?"

I think we have finally reached the point where we can realistically talk about getting there and how to do it. I say that because I believe the incessant challenges to our business over the past decade have strengthened the resolve of this industry to respond with a unanimity of common purpose. To agree on things we previously fought over. To make the necessary compromises.

We're not there yet because we are missing a single important ingredient, the one needed to set the stage for years of consolidated national policy and accomplishment.

While we have been searching in recent years for specific solutions to our problems, we have, at the same time, been looking for a structure that helps resolve our differences routinely, effectively and fairly. Consistent policy and consensus is our goal; structure is the way to get there. To develop that structure, we first have to deal with the realities that work against it. Here, I can speak to you entirely from personal and practical experience. And I intend to be blunt about it.

I represent and work for an organization whose business it is to overcome the parochialism and fragmentation inherent in the American horse industry. The American Horse Council is a large federation of organizations, interests and individuals. Its success over the years has been due to the recognition and pursuit of larger goals that benefit all horse people. Much as I would like to, I can't take credit for the concept of the American Horse Council, for the foresight that created the organization less than 20 years ago. I look around this room and see many of the people who can, and should.

I can, however, take some credit for having learned over the years, how and why AHC works, and seeing to it that it seldom, if ever, departs from its most central source of strength. It is a lesson I feel strongly enough about to want to offer it to our racing industry here today as an approach to the future.

The strength of the American Horse Council lies in the fact that we do not tell the individual members, segments and various groupings of our national federation what to do. We act as a go-between for the Congress, the media and the industry itself. We analyze and convey information. We make suggestions. We offer direction. We get things done. But we never tell anybody what they have to do.
Let me put that in very simple terms. We respect the autonomy, authority and knowledge of the organizations and individuals who make up our industry. And it is about time for the segments of the racing business to do the same with each other.

Only an owner knows the struggle of matching bills and purse earnings in an effort to survive in this business.

Only a trainer knows how difficult it is to prepare a horse for maximum effort on the track and see sheer racing luck take over at that critical moment.

Only a veterinarian knows the challenge of treating horses humanely with the economic and regulatory realities of racing.

Only a jockey or driver knows the pressure of making instant decisions at high speeds with lives and livelihoods at stake.

Only a racing commissioner knows the problem of weighing the length of a suspension against the need and right of an individual to earn a living.

Only a racing chemist knows what it's like to make a living finding needles in haystacks.

Only a race track knows how hard it is to get one more person in the door to bet one more dollar.

Only a breeder knows how it feels to put money on the line with absolute confidence that the information used was meaningful and accurate.

Only a breeder knows the tension of making decisions and paying stud fees before the product reaches the sales ring.

Only a breed registry knows the burden of maintaining the integrity of its stud book while processing registrations as rapidly as possible.

I am aware of no one in our business who has personal experience with all these pressures and emotions. I am aware of no single individual or organization that can easily balance them when they come into conflict.

That is why, when I speak about solutions and future directions, I am speaking about a structure and not a policy. It’s time for us to develop a means, to set policy to guide the racing business.

I have watched and listened to people in our industry call for a “clear” of racing, but I don’t think it takes a student of Russian history to know what a disaster that can be. It takes us back to telling people what to do. It is based on the kind of disrespect for the ideas and needs of others that has typically undermined our work.

It also should be apparent that it cannot work in a state-regulated industry such as ours. No one, other than the Congress of the United States, can dictate policy to state governments. Our racing commissions regulate racing on behalf of state governments and are the major decision makers on the rules that we operate within.

But there is nothing about this state regulation that excludes or precludes industry policy making. The rules will normally reflect and accommodate industry-wide agreements. For this reason, it is entirely possible, in fact desirable, for us to pursue mechanisms that develop policy and then convey it effectively to commissions wherever and whenever appropriate.

Where does that leave us?

Over the past five years, I have seen developments in racing that reflect a new understanding of common purpose and its rewards. In the area of marketing, at least four new structures—the Breeders' Cup, the Breeders' Crown, Thoroughbred Racing Communications and the North American Harness Racing Marketing Association—have emerged from an industry outcry to better publicize our racing sport. A Quarter Horse Racing Council was created within the Quarter Horse industry to coordinate its racing programs. An Arabian Jockey Club was formed.

This morning, we have heard discussion of a revitalized Drug Testing and Quality Assurance Program. This program is breathing fresh air because the entire racing industry has become part of its operating procedures. It has been redesigned to acknowledge the industry-wide demand for an effective system, and to recognize the fact that unless we are all conversant and satisfied with its approach, it will not be supported and it will not work.

This event, with respect to the Quality Assurance Program was engineered by smaller parts thinking big. Taken together, they reflect a new attitude. That suggests to me a readiness to make the next move, a further step in the process of mutual action based on respect for each other autonomy and authority.

Our business works best in federation—individual interests governed by a desire to develop programs and policies that forward the industry as a whole.

To that end, I believe the time has come for an American Horse Racing Federation. Not necessarily a new organization, although that is a possibility, but a structure to bring the decision makers from racing organizations together to map national policy and programs on the most pressing and important of our issues.

Through such a structure, I can envision industry-wide organizational agreements and commitments on rules and regulations, on marketing, on research and other areas that, today, are handled in a piecemeal manner. Without this structure, I would predict that only crisis, not planning, will produce change for the better.

I know of no other industry of our size, with segments that have so much in common, that has virtually no structured policy and program development. It has cost us dearly in medication, where differences of opinion still abound, based on emotion rather than facts, which should already have been developed.

It has cost us off-track betting and simulcasting, which have been recognized as issues since 1971 but are just now gaining a level of understanding wherein we can comfortably predict their impact and put them to productive use.

It has cost us in marketing, where we continue to lag behind the rest of the entertainment world and still refuse to embrace the most basic of principles. It has cost us, but it has killed us.

In respecting each other's legitimacy, we also recognize each other's contributions. Owners, breeders, trainers, jockeys, drivers, veterinarians, racing commissioners, track managers, bettors and association leaders all contribute to this business. Their organizations deserve to participate in the setting of our policies. At the same time, they must be formally committed to the process of making things better.

That includes breaking through barriers that separate us. The most obvious is inter-breed disputes and dislikes that obscure the fact that pari-mutuel horse racing is one of the country's largest sports only when the numbers from all racing breeds are included.

If any of us in this room thinks the closing of Roosevelt Raceway only has implications for New York, we are wrong. If we think it only has implications for harness racing, we are wrong. It has implications for horse racing, horse sport and the America horse industry at large.

In the same vein, going separate ways on publicity and marketing does not raise the
image or the identification of one kind of horse racing over another. It just limits our budgets and exposure. It gives other industries—casinos, lotteries, professional sports—the edge they need to take away present and future customers.

The marketing of the industries which compete with us, directly and indirectly, always seems to me to be more generic, more fundamental than ours, and that bothers me. It bothers me because we have a product—the horse—which has more intrinsic appeal than almost any other. And we do so little with that advantage.

Don’t we all feel that a television, radio or magazine advertisement focusing on “The Great American Racehorse,” regardless of breed, would make us all proud? Convey to the public a positive feeling about our sport? Be effective?

I do. Maybe you do or don’t. But it is about time we had a forum to make those decisions. It is time to vent these frustrations in a constructive way. Now this is big picture thinking. It is thinking that can give shape and meaning to themes that have been running through our sport for the better part of two decades.

I believe, however, that this is one of those realizations whose time has finally arrived. The American Horse Council offers to do all it can to make this concept a reality, to help direct the process and ensure that the right balances are struck. The specifics must be left to you, to a meeting of organizational leaders of this sport which AHC would gladly oversee and assist with.

I will leave you with this thought. If in ten years I am asked by The Jockey Club to comment again on fragmentation and self-interest, I will be speaking to an industry that has failed to grasp the major opportunity before it. I will also be speaking to an industry not much larger and perhaps smaller than it is today.

The bottom line is respect; for each other, for our industry and for our potential. To The Jockey Club, let me express my deep appreciation for this invitation and its continued confidence and support for the American Horse Council. To all of you as AHC members, organizations and individuals, I hope I have done justice to the cause of horses and equestrian sports. And to all of you, thank you for listening.

MR. PHIPPS: Rich, we appreciate it. Thank you for your remarks. We thank all of you for coming. In about ten minutes, the museum is going to show their wonderful movie which is about eighteen minutes long. And anybody that would like to, is asked by the museum to attend. We look forward to seeing all of you next year. Thank you.

Richard I.G. Jones, John Hettinger, Richard A. Sams